

Abstract

A plate/screw system for immobilizing adjacent vertebral bodies or an interbody device includes a plate having at least one spaced opening with an upper section of a width or diameter of d_1 and a lower section having or diameter less than w_1 . The lower section defines a partial or completed helical track for receiving a screw. A bone screw for insertion into the threaded opening has a head section of d_1 , an adjacent neck section of d_2 and a thread section of d_3 where $d_2 < d_3 < d_1$ whereby the relationship between d_1 and w_1 determines whether the screw can or cannot pivot relative to the plate.